

In the Claims:

1 - 6. canceled.

7. (currently amended): A method of connecting a user computing device to one of a plurality of remote computers available for communication over a network comprising:

a) reading an audio signal to obtain an index encoded therein;

b) accessing a database with the index, the database comprising a plurality of records that link an index to a pointer which identifies a remote computer on the network;

c) obtaining a pointer from the database with at least reference to the index; and

d) using the pointer to establish communication with the remote computer identified thereby. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reading a data carrier modulated with an index comprises inputting into the user computing device an audible signal modulated with information correlated to the index.

8 – 36. canceled.

37. (currently amended): A system comprising:

a. a user computing device;

b. an input device associated with the user computing device, wherein the input device is configured to obtain an index from an encoded audio signal;

c. means for storing a database comprising a plurality of records that link an index to a pointer which identifies a remote computer;

wherein the user computing device comprises:

means for accessing the database to extract a pointer from the database with at least reference to the index; and

means for using the pointer to establish communication with the remote computer identified thereby. The system of claim 31 wherein the input device comprises means for inputting into the user computing device an audible signal modulated with information correlated to the index.

38. – 66. canceled.

67. (currently amended): A user computing device comprising:

a. an input device configured to obtain an index from an encoded audio signal; and

b. computer processing circuitry to execute instructions to:

utilize the index to access a database comprising a plurality of records that link an index to a pointer which identifies a remote computer;

retrieve from the database a pointer with at least reference to the index; and

use the pointer to establish communication with the remote computer identified

thereby. The user computing device of claim 61 wherein the input device comprises means for inputting into the user computing device an audible signal modulated with information correlated to the index.

68. – 95. canceled.

96. (new): The method of claim 7 wherein the pointer comprises at least one of a uniform resource locator (URL), IP address or network address.

97. (new): The system of claim 37 wherein the pointer comprises at least one of a uniform resource locator (URL), IP address or network address.

98. (new): The user computing device of claim 67 wherein the pointer comprises at least one of a uniform resource locator (URL), IP address or network address.